

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

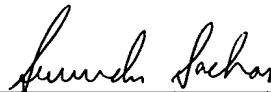
By the present preliminary amendment an Abstract is submitted.

Further, the claims are amended to no longer recite any multiple dependencies, and to correct minor informalities. The claim amendments are believed to narrow the claims in any aspect, or raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599  
Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM/SS/law  
I:\ATTY\SNS\254294\254294US-PR.DOC